

April 5, 2018



## More Free Children's Books Made Available to our Community's Children

**Read to Learn Books for Free Expands**

**A Community Celebration on April 20**



**Contact:**

Communications Office  
786-336-1276

Read to Learn Books for Free, a literacy initiative of The Children's Trust, in partnership with Miami Book Fair, is expanding from 40 bookshelves to 55, and the community is gathering together for a Ribbon-Cutting and a Community Read-in at one of their newest locations, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH-Miami-Dade) West Dade WIC Center on Friday, April 20th. Invited special guests will read to our community's children, delight in milk and cookies, learn about our community's resources, and enjoy a chance to win raffle prizes. To attend this event, register on the [event invitation](#) page.

Read to Learn Books for Free provides more than 4,000 books a week to children who don't have access to books, and who don't own books at home. It is the community's donations of gently-used children's books that stock the 40 book shelves found across the county - from the Juvenile Justice Center to WIC offices to Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center— that provides every child who visits the shelves a free book to take home.

Said Amanda Giust, Coordinator, Read to Learn Books for Free, "The WIC offices/Florida Department of Health has been a valued partner of Read to Learn Books for Free, and currently houses free bookshelves in five of their WIC locations around Miami-Dade County. With this expansion of more bookshelves, and more books, there are even more opportunities for our children to experience the joys of losing oneself in a good book, and the love between books and their owners."

The DOH-Miami-Dade WIC Program has been a valuable partner for the Read to Learn Books for Free program over the last 4 years providing over 200,000 books at 5 of their WIC Centers throughout Miami-Dade County. The upcoming bookshelf expansion will add 4 additional WIC Centers bringing the total to 9 WIC centers providing free books in several communities. The books are open to all children in the surrounding area of the WIC center.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Reading Celebration will take place:

**When:** April 20, 2018, 10AM-12:30PM

**Where:** West Dade WIC Center, 11865 SW 26th Street, Unit #J-6 Miami, FL 33175

**Registration:** Limited slots available, register on the [event invitation](#) page to confirm attendance.

**Audience:** WIC clients, partners, community members and leaders

**Information:** Read to Learn Books for Free, Amanda Giust, at 305.237.7887 or WIC Program, Carla Muñoz, at 786.385.8657

WIC is the nation's most successful and cost-effective public health nutrition program providing wholesome food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and community referrals for income-eligible women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum, infants and children up to five years old.

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

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